

NEWS OF THE WEEK

General Resume of Important Events Throughout the World.

Further relief to Belgians from the United States is not guaranteed by the German government.

An English trawler was sunk in the English channel by a German mine. The crew of 11 men were saved.

Congress has re-convened and it is predicted that the session will hold until the fall falls at noon March 4.

The French army is said to be advancing on the German strongholds in spite of the storms raging in that vicinity.

Plot to murder many rich men of New York City is said to have been discovered by the police department of that city.

Two Portland women, touring the Hawaiian Islands, were killed in an automobile accident by being thrown over a precipice.

Two important witnesses in the noted Los Angeles Times dynamiting case, have died, badly crippling the state's case against the two recently captured fugitives.

The press of Germany is practically unanimous in upholding the new note from America dealing with the transportation of foodstuffs by neutrals to belligerents.

Each employee of the City of Portland is now required to keep a card index which contains the actual number of hours worked per day, enumerating the kinds of work performed, etc.

Germany, in answer to the American note, is willing to make concessions to shipping through the "war zone," reserving the right, however, of searching vessels for contraband goods.

Many Americans traveling as "horse tenders" on vessels bound for England and France, with promise of good pay and return ticket, are stranded in those countries, and are appealing to the American consuls for assistance.

The exchange of maimed prisoners through Geneva began Wednesday with the arrival of 1800 Frenchmen and 800 Germans. The transfer was made under the auspices of the Swiss Red Cross society. The soldiers traveled in special coaches, which were guarded by the military. Approximately a ton of gifts were there awaiting the unfortunates, who probably will number from 4000 to 5000 men from each country.

The bill charging manslaughter against a provincial police officer and three Canadian soldiers who last fall fired on two American duck hunters, Walter Smith and Charles Dornsb, killing Smith and wounding his companion, was dismissed by the Welland county grand jury. The shooting, which resulted in diplomatic correspondence between the United States and Great Britain, occurred on the Niagara River. After a protest had been made by Washington the Dominion government paid to Smith's relatives \$10,000 and a lesser sum was given to Dornsb.

The allied fleets have silenced the Turkish forts at the entrance to the Dardanelles.

War experts say the loss of the Dardanelles will mean the complete subjugation of Turkey.

The municipality of Berlin has decided to acquire the Berlin electrical works, which at present has the monopoly of supplying current for traction, light and power purposes. The price will be about \$31,000,000.

Governor Ferguson, of Texas, has addressed to President Wilson a communication saying continual raiding is going on along the Rio Grande border for 75 miles inland as a result of the starving condition of the Mexican people.

In the house of commons Sir Edward Grey, secretary for foreign affairs, made the important announcement, which was received with cheers, that Great Britain sympathized with Russia's aspirations to gain access to the open sea through Turkey.

The American submarines C-3 and C-5 have been ordered from Cristobal to Balboa to work out certain defense problems in connection with the coast artillery relating to mine laying and target practice. The submarines will be the first American fighting craft to use the canal.

The friendly relations between Japan and the United States were dwelt upon by both Japanese and Americans at the annual banquet of the Japan society in New York. Ambassador and Vice Consul Chinda and Admiral Baron Dewa, representing the Japanese government at the Panama-Pacific exposition, were guests of honor.

The Commerce commission reports that the Louisville & Nashville railroad spent millions in politics, to raise which "watered" stock was issued.

Figures compiled by the Holland postal authorities show that since the beginning of the war 864 German newspapers have been suspended publication.

The London Daily Mail's Copenhagen correspondent says it is reported from Berlin that the German casualties in East Prussia and Poland during the last three weeks are estimated at about 200,000.

Washington Gets Hopeful Reports From Europe

Washington, D. C. — Encouraging reports from both Ambassadors Page and Gerard at London and Berlin, respectively, were received by President Wilson and his cabinet concerning the attitude of Great Britain and Germany toward the latest American proposals for the safeguarding of neutral commerce from the dangers of submarines and mines, and the unrestricted shipment of foodstuffs to the civilian population of belligerent countries.

Complete replies are not expected for some time, because the subject is still under consideration by England and her allies.

Germany's willingness to make concessions and negotiate for an understanding on the vexatious questions already has been made known informally to the United States and a formal acquiescence is expected in a day or two. All eyes now are turned on London, where the opinion is understood as yet to be divided on the merits of the suggestions.

Some of the leading men in the British cabinet are said to favor in principle the American proposals as a means of solving the problem with as little inconvenience to neutral countries as possible. Another element, however, is said to be impressed by the military value of further restriction of supplies to Germany and more reprisals and there is some indication that when the final resolution on the American proposals is to be made the military faction will present strong opposition to them.

The exact nature of the proposals is still unknown because of the rigid reticence of the officials both here and abroad, but each day adds information on the subject. Briefly, this much of the contents of the American suggestions now has been confirmed. The United States has asked that the previous rules of international law with respect to the shipment by neutrals of conditional contraband destined to civilian populations and not the belligerent forces of an enemy, remain unaltered.

A system is suggested whereby proof can be furnished that the supplies will be used by the civilian population.

The removal of all floating mines by Germany as well as Great Britain is proposed, this not to apply, however, to mines used for protection of coast defenses and harbors, pilots to be furnished to guide neutral ships through such fields as remain.

Attention is called to Germany's promise that if foodstuffs are not detained when destined to her civilian population the submarine warfare on merchant ships will be abandoned.

Farmers Not Heard in Fixing Price of Wheat

New York — Joseph Leiter, long a famous wheat operator, testified at the state inquiry into the cost of bread that the farmer had nothing to say about the price at which his wheat should be sold. That, he added, was determined at the terminal markets.

The Liverpool exchange, which is the leading exchange of the world, he said, "usually fixes the price."

Mr. Leiter said 75 per cent of the elevators are owned either by the big wheat operators or the railroads, while 25 per cent were owned by independent or small operators and farmers' co-operative societies. The United States has controlled the wheat prices of the world since September 1, 1914, and will continue to do so until another crop is raised, Mr. Leiter asserted.

Mr. Leiter gave it as his opinion that the "invisible supply" of wheat, or that which is in the hands of farmers and not recorded in the government report, has been a large factor in keeping down the price.

"The farmers have become the largest speculators in the country; they will hold crop after crop, sometimes for so long as four years," he said. "In a year such as we are having we find that there is an enormous lot of wheat that isn't covered by the government records. If it wasn't for this fact the prices today would be much higher."

"There isn't anybody left in the speculative market now," Mr. Leiter said. "The speculators got out after the price passed the \$1.40 mark—the small trader was forced out and the big one was frightened out. The rise would have come much sooner had it not been for speculation."

German Success Costly.

Petrograd — "Many German prisoners," says the Russian official news agency, "have been captured on the roads toward Grodno. They are unanimous in affirming that their corps sustained grave losses, in spite of the success of the Germans in the Augustowo forest, their ranks having been greatly demoralized. According to the captives, the large number of prisoners taken by the Russians at the Mogheli farm was due to the suddenness of the Russian attack and the lack of experienced German officers."

Traitor General Is Shot.

Copenhagen — The newspapers here publish a Berlin dispatch reporting the killing of a prominent Turkish general in Syria. His death was ordered from Constantinople. It is said the charge being made that he committed treason in endeavoring to carry out negotiations for peace. The basis of the general's negotiations, it is said, was the proclaiming of himself as sultan, the limiting of Turkey to Asia and the abandoning of Palestine and Mesopotamia to England.

Sub-station at Umatilla Issues Report of Work

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis — "Soil and climatic conditions prevailing on the Umatilla reclamation project were considered by the reclamation service to be better adapted to the production of fruit than to other crops. As a result of this early decision, the land was divided into small units with a view to the development of small intensively farmed fruit and garden tracts."

The foregoing is a quotation from the report of the Umatilla branch experiment station, made by Superintendent Ralph W. Allen and issued by the Oregon Agricultural College Experiment Station under the direction of Director A. B. Cordley. The report tells further how and for what purpose the branch station was established, how it is maintained and managed, and reviews the leading features of its activities since its establishment. The report says further:

"The predominating soil type on the Umatilla project, upon which the station is located, is sand, ranging in texture from coarse to fine. Approximately half of this area is of coarse sand and the remainder ranges in character from medium to fine. The higher land that lies back from the Columbia river is mostly of finer texture. The soils are markedly deficient in organic matter and nitrogen. The physical character of this land renders the duty of irrigation water very low. From a soil standpoint, the correction of these two difficulties, which are among the principal factors influencing crop production, is of the utmost importance."

"Climatic conditions of this district are very congenial for crop growth. They are a rare combination of dry atmosphere and dry weather. The effect is comparatively long growing seasons and mild, open winters."

Conditions on this tract are such as render necessary scientific investigation in eradication of alkali, securing stands of crops, crop rotations, and the economical use of water and increasing soil fertility.

Reports of experiments with truck crops, strawberries, cane fruits and tree fruits as carried on in field plots, are given in the new bulletin, free copies of which may be had by all interested persons upon request addressed to the Oregon Agricultural College.

Legislature Appropriates \$6,477,031 All Told

Salem — The appropriations of the Twenty-eighth Legislative assembly make an approximate total of \$6,477,031, or \$1,258,890 less than the preceding session. These figures are based on the actual general and continuing appropriations totals, and an estimate of \$550,000 for special appropriations.

Appropriations for the general fund total \$2,516,300, and those cared for by existing laws, millage tax and special funds total \$2,610,731. The aggregate appropriations for the 1915 session were \$7,735,921.68. Money was appropriated directly by the legislature for the University of Oregon and the Oregon Agricultural college, while all but three or four items will be taken care of in the future by millage tax.

While the ways and means committee gave the appropriation for the Industrial Accident commission as \$967,187, it is as a matter of fact only about \$126,000, being one-seventh of the amount collected in fees by the department.

Following are the general state appropriations:

Oregon state hospital, \$675,166; Eastern Oregon state hospital, \$305,860; penitentiary, \$202,000; institution for feeble minded, \$144,961; Capitol and Supreme court buildings, \$58,650; institute for blind, \$28,213; school for deaf, \$54,987; compilation laws, resolutions and memorials of 28th legislative assembly, \$9,000; industrial school for girls, \$34,300; training school, \$65,275; legislative expenses, \$65,000; special agents, \$7,000; library, \$23,800; Supreme court library, \$16,612; water board, \$35,395; engineer, \$37,430; department of education, \$39,088; bounty on wild animals, \$110,000; orphans and foundlings, \$100,000; board of health, \$30,000; social hygiene society, \$15,000; Florence Crittenton home, \$75,000; Patton home, \$60,000; Historical society, \$12,000; tuberculosis hospital, \$38,125; state treasury department, \$36,375; executive department, \$23,700; secretary of state, \$61,000; old soldiers' home, \$31,658.75; board of horticulture, \$12,000; forestry board, \$20,000; humane society, \$2,000; National guard, \$155,000; completing

premiums received. Practically the same condition prevailed with the business in 1913.

"A short time after I took possession of this office it became apparent to me from inquiries from all parts of the state that the Horticultural Fire Relief of Oregon, Oregon Merchants' Mutual Fire Insurance Association and the Pacific Home Mutual Fire Insurance company were having trouble in meeting their obligations and also in collecting assessments levied during the month of December. During the first part of last month I requested the president and secretary of these companies to call at this office for a conference. They readily accepted this invitation, and in discussing their future plans, it was decided a thorough investigation be made by an expert insurance accountant. This met with their approval and they employed W. W. Chambers."

"The results of this investigation showed these three companies to be in such financial condition that the board of directors deemed it advisable to notify the insurance department of same, and on being informed of conditions I decided that immediate steps should be taken to protect the policyholders and warn those who held insurance in these companies to secure new insurance."

"On February 23, on a line from Trans-Churuk, our troops progressed with success, dislodging the Turkish forces from their positions."

"In the passes south of Alachkert our troops in an engagement seized two Turkish artillery pieces."

German Cruiser Gets Two.

London — Lloyd's correspondent at La Concepcion, Chile, sends the following dispatch: "The steamer Skerries reports that the British bark Kid-almon and the French bark Jean were sunk by the German converted cruiser Prinz Eitel Friedrich in December. The crews are at Easter Island and have refused to be taken off."

Shetland Isles in Zone.

Amsterdam — A semi-official dispatch received here from Berlin says that the Orkney and Shetland islands, lying off the northeastern coast of Scotland at the head of the North Sea, and also Kirkwall harbor, in the Orkney Islands, must be regarded as lying within the war zone. The passages on both sides of the France islands, almost midway between Scotland and Iceland, are not endangered, the dispatch says.

HIT TURKISH FORTS

Allied Fleet After Constantinople at Night.

London — Twenty-eight warships of the allied fleet entered the Dardanelles yesterday and bombarded the inner forts, according to a dispatch from the British navy headquarters. The message said that a battleship, bombarded a Turkish camp on the Gulf of Saros.

After having completed the destruction of the forts at the entrance of the Dardanelles, the allied fleet of British and French warships, the greatest number ever been in action, is now attacking the shore forts, which herebefore have stood between Turkey and invasion by the sea.

Apparently the outer forts could not withstand a great bombardment, and when they had been leveled and deserted by their defenders, men were landed from the ships to complete the work of demolition while mine-sweepers cleared a passage for ships in the straits.

More serious work is now ahead, for the all-important fortifications at Kilid Bahr and Chanak, which guard the narrowest part of the straits, which the fleet is now approaching. There is no doubt, however, that the allied commanders have their instructions to make their way to Constantinople in spite of obstacles and have been supplied with the best means of carrying out these orders.

American Liner Captured by French Warships

Paris — A French cruiser has arrested the American steamer Dacia in the Channel and taken her to Brest. This announcement is officially made.

The steamship Dacia left Galveston for Rotterdam January 31 with 11,000 bales of cotton to be trans-shipped to Bremen. It was fully expected at that time that the ship would be seized on her way to Rotterdam.

Great Britain questioned the validity of the recent transfer of the Dacia from German to American registry. The Dacia touched at Norfolk February 11 and proceeded.

The Dacia was formerly a Hamburg-American freight steamer which had been used before the war in trade with Bremen and New Orleans and other Gulf ports. At the outbreak of the hostilities she was interned at Port Arthur, Tex.

The Dacia was bought on December 24 by an American and on January 4 American registry was obtained. It was then announced that she was to be used to relieve the cotton congestion and loading was begun with a cargo of cotton to be taken to Rotterdam and thence shipped to Bremen, where it was already sold.

Representations were made immediately by the British embassy at Washington, questioning the validity of the transfer of the interned vessel and it was generally understood that if she sailed she would be seized by British or French warships and taken before a prize court.

War Budget Yet Grows.

Berlin — The Federal council adopted the preliminary budget estimates, including 10,042,000,000 marks (\$2,510,500,000) for extraordinary expenditures. This amount is for carrying on the war.

The estimates of ordinary expenditures are 3,323,000,000 marks (\$83,075,000). Almost all of the amount to be devoted to the war will be raised by loans.

The Cologne Savings bank has subscribed 20,000,000 marks and the Victoria Insurance company to \$30,000,000 of the new war loan.

Cent Per Letter Urged.

Washington, D. C. — Senator Weeks, of Massachusetts, has launched a campaign for 1-cent letter postage. In a statement Senator Weeks declared: "The American people have a right to expect congress to consider enactment of general 1-cent letter postage. The government is making a large profit from first-class mail, just how much it is hard to say, but it must be nearly 1 cent on every 2 paid, and the profit derived on drop letters, or letters for delivery in the same city in which they are mailed, must be even greater."

Russians Dislodge Turks.

Petrograd — Russian successes are reported in an official communication from the general staff of the army in the Caucasus. The statement says: "On February 23, on a line from Trans-Churuk, our troops progressed with success, dislodging the Turkish forces from their positions."

Belgian Subsidy Refused.

London — The London foreign office has declined in a letter to Herbert C. Hoover, chairman, to give a direct subsidy to the commission for relief in Belgium, because it is said Germany refused to stop cash requisitions in Belgium. The letter is signed by Sir Edward Grey. He says: "We did not see our way to accede to your request. Indeed, for some time we have regarded the whole project of the distribution of food in Belgium with some doubt, in view of the action of the German authorities."

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Remains of Russian Army Thought Powerless

Suwalki, Poland — The remains of the Russian tenth army, torn to remnants in the Mazurian Lakes country by Field Marshal von Hindenburg's East Prussian force, comprise but a negligible quantity in the operations that are now under way.

The recent overwhelming victory of the Germans was accomplished by the most terrific fighting after striking forced marches.

This fighting has been described as the February campaign in East Prussia and Northern Poland, and it is regarded here as a second Tannenberg.

The Russians composing the tenth army were under command of General Sievers. It is true that this commander, by a skillful use of the railroad at his disposal and by the sacrifices at times of entire battalions in order to bring off a few guns, succeeded in saving a greater part of his artillery, but no fewer than 60,000 of his 150,000 men are already counted among the German prisoners, while his killed and wounded in the four days' battle with which these operations were inaugurated and the subsequent running fights are estimated at 30,000 men.

On the streets of Suwalki there could be heard the sound of artillery from a swampy region to the south-east, where an isolated Russian division, perhaps 10,000 men strong, has been completely surrounded, but is still offering resistance.

Several thousand Russians probably remain in small scattered bands, or are wandering as stragglers within the ring which the German troops have now closed around the woods and swamps between Suwalki, Augustowo and the German frontier, but the capture of the wanderers is expected here and is regarded as merely an incident in a campaign to which this great success is called only the prelude.

It is not believed among German military men at Suwalki that General Sievers will be able to bring one-fifth of his troops safely behind the fortress at Grodno—a safety which may not be of long duration.

The foregoing statement may seem to be exaggerated, but a correspondent, motoring along the line of the Russian retreat over roads deep with snow and through a desolate and swampy country, gained an impression of complete defeat and demoralization which scarcely can be conveyed in words.

Carranza Loses 1500 Men, 6 Military Trains

Washington, D. C. — Fifteen hundred Carranza soldiers were killed and many captured by Villa troops at the battle of Zayula, according to General Villa's version of the fighting, forwarded from Chihuahua to the State department. After the battle, which took place last Friday, Villa reported that he personally headed the columns, pursuing the Carranza troops toward Manzanillo. Villa said his own losses were 100 killed and 250 wounded.

Six military trains and the headquarters of General Diegues, governor of Jalisco, were among the equipment which Villa said he had captured.

Defeat of General Carranza, a Carranza commander, and the capture of Rosario, on the west coast of the republic, also were reported by Villa. Carranza was said to have lost 500 men missing and to have retreated.

Allied Fleet Would Lower Wheat Cost

New York — If the Dardanelles should be opened by the allies' fleet, releasing grain from Russia and the Danubian countries, there would be a radical change in the situation that is keeping up wheat prices in the United States, said C. H. Canby, president of the Chicago board of trade, testifying before the state's investigation into food prices.

"It was Europe's tremendous demand, not speculation, that put up prices," said Mr. Canby. He knew on the best of authority, he said, that one European belligerent would gladly pay \$2 a bushel for 50,000,000 bushels of wheat, if it could make the purchase.

He added that the situation is clearing up, wheat has reached its limit, and by the spring, when the shipments from Argentina begin, it will be well in hand.

The recent increase in the cost of wheat bread and flour will not cause suffering among the poor, he added. The rise in the price of wheat, he said, will be balanced by a decrease in the price of potatoes and other edibles.

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ALLIES CONSULTED

England Gives Ear to Proposals of America to Belligerents.

Washington, D. C. — Great Britain has submitted to her allies, France and Russia, the proposals made by the United States government designated to end the menace to neutral commerce arising from the retaliatory measures of the European belligerents toward each other.

Briefly the American proposals, which have been submitted to both England and Germany, seek the elimination by Germany of the recently prescribed war zone around Great Britain and Ireland, with its dangers to neutral shipping through mines and submarine torpedoes, and the adoption by all the belligerents of a definite policy with reference to food supplies for civilians.

From such preliminary observations as American diplomatic officers abroad already have made there is said to be some encouragement in the manner of the reception of the proposals at London. Germany is inclined toward an acceptance of the suggestions, it is understood, but upon the attitude of Great Britain depends the next move in the situation.

The strong opposition which the Scandinavian countries, Italy, Holland and other neutrals have assumed toward the retaliatory measures adopted by the belligerents is playing a considerable part in the situation. Officials, while reticent about what has been said to Germany and Great Britain in the latest communication, do not deny that the gravity of the whole situation has been made unmistakably clear. In some quarters the suggestion was made, but without confirmation from sources usually well informed, that an embargo on exports of foodstuffs from the United States to the allies and Germany was being considered as the next step in the event of an absolute rejection of the American plan for ameliorating the situation.

It became known that the latest communication, described as a confidential memorandum, was sent Sunday to Ambassadors Page and Gerard after a conference between President Wilson, Secretary Bryan and Counselor Robert Lansing. The American government has no official comment on the sinking of the American steamers Carib and Evelyn because of the absence of definite information as to the causes of their destruction. It is understood that the latest communication from the United States urging acceptance of its proposals deals with the grave dangers to neutral vessels that have arisen through the mines already laid and threats to strew more of the explosives in the high seas.

It is taken for granted that the reports that the captains of the two vessels followed instructions given them by British naval officers will be brought to the attention of the London foreign office so that the British admiralty may investigate the truth or falsity of the report.

Allied Armies Pressing Toward Relief of Rheims

London — News that the allies have made fresh progress in the Champagne district in France is contained in the official report of the French war office issued in Paris Thursday. This is regarded as especially important because if the movement is successful on a scale of any magnitude, it will result in relieving the pressure on Rheims, which has been under bombardment almost incessantly since the beginning of the war. The report said:

"There have been artillery engagements from the Lyons to the Aisne, at times rather spirited and all favorable to us."

"In the Champagne region to the north to Meuse we have made fresh progress and repulsed several counter attacks. Our artillery on the heights of the Meuse has silenced several German batteries."

"Supplementary reports emphasize the importance of the success at Les Eparges and the extent of the enemy's losses. On a small section of a line carried by us we have already found over 900 German killed."

Britons Suspect Source.

London — With regard to the assumption that President Wilson has informally proposed that Great Britain should allow foodstuffs for civilians to enter Germany under some form of American guarantee and American distribution, the Daily Mail in an editorial declares that such a proposal is not likely to prove acceptable to the British government. "We must consider the enemy of the proposal," the Mail says, "and not the neutral and friendly channel through which it reaches us. We prefer Germany to do her worst."

1,035,000 Allies Captives.

Frankfurt On The Main, Germany — The Frankfurter Zeitung estimates that the prisoners of war in Germany and Austria now number 1,035,000. This number, it says, is divided as follows: Russians, 688,000; French, 237,000; Serbians, 60,000; Belgians, 17,000; British, 19,000. About 75 per cent of the total is held by Germany.